

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/735,397

Examiner

Ghassem Alie

Applicant(s)

LIHL ET AL.

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/20/06.
2. ☐ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 4-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claims 9-16 were withdrawn without traverse in response to restriction requirement on 09/06/05. Therefore, claims 9-16 are cancelled.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claim:

Claims 9-16 have been cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are allowable because prior art fails to teach the step of providing a distance measuring device system for measuring the spacing between the trimmed surface of the specimen and the specimen holder during the movement of the trimming knife or the milling. The prior art also fails to teach the step of transferring the spacing to the microtome or ultramicrotome via a data transfer means prior to mounting the specimen with the specimen holder in the microtome or ultramicrotome as set forth in claim 1.

Regarding claim 1, Gordon (5,533,342) teaches a method of cutting a specimen having a trimmed surface with a cutter. Gordon also teaches that the method include a step of providing a knife holder for the knife and a specimen holder for holding the specimen. Gordon also teaches a step of using a feed device for producing relative motion between the

knife and the specimen. Gordon also teaches a step of ascertaining in a trimming apparatus the spacing between the trimmed surface of the specimen and the specimen holder. Gordon also teaches steps of transferring the spacing data to the cutting device and inserting the specimen holder into the cutting device. However, Gordon fails to teach the step of providing a distance measuring device system for measuring the spacing between the trimmed surface of the specimen and the specimen holder during the movement of the trimming knife or the milling. Gordon also fails to teach the step of transferring the spacing to the microtome or ultramicrotome via a data transfer means prior to mounting the specimen with the specimen holder in the microtome or ultramicrotome as set forth in claim 1.

None of these references by themselves or in combination with the other prior art cited teach the claimed invention set forth in claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Comment

3. In view of amendment to claims 1 and 5, the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83 (a) and the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, have been withdrawn.

Conclusion


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ghassem Alie whose telephone number is (571) 272-4501. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on (571) 272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, SEE <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GA/ga

April 3, 2006


Allan N. Shoap
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